



IN THE UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Neil ROLPH, *et al.*)
) Group Art Unit: 3679
Application No.: 10/673,461)
) Examiner: Vishal A. PATEL
Filed: September 30, 2003)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A TRANSITION
CONNECTOR TO INTRODUCE OUTSIDE AIR AND VENT FLUE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS
OF ALLOWANCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(e)

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

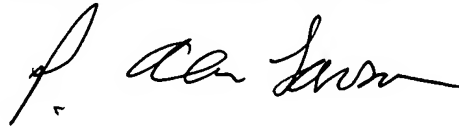
This communication is in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed September 22, 2005. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding the allowable subject matter in the above-referenced application. However, in the Notice of Allowance, Applicant notes that the Examiner made the following comment. "Prior art (*Kesterman, et al.*) teaches to have a transition piece comprising a tube having a connecting end, a clamp attached to the tube near the connecting end, a gasket mounted inside the tube near the connecting end, the transition piece is configured to connect to a pipe by fitting the pipe inside the connecting end and engaging the gasket around an outside wall of the pipe in a substantially airtight manner and the clamp is configured to tighten an outside wall of the tube to create a pressfit engagement between the tube and the pipe but does not teach that the transition piece is mounted in a combustion device and further wherein an exterior of the transition piece extends through the combustion device in a substantially airtight manner such that an interior portion of the combustion device is substantially sealed from

ambient surroundings of the combustion device.” Applicant has not reviewed *Kesterman* to make a determination whether or not it agrees with the Examiner’s characterization of *Kesterman*, and thereafter does not acquiesce to the Examiner’s characterization of *Kesterman*. Further, not all of the allowed claims in the present case require or recite the exact language recited by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant asserts that each of the claims are allowable in view of the language contained within the claims themselves and are entitled to the full scope of their literal language, as well as any and all equivalents under the doctrine of equivalence, and do not necessarily rely upon the specific above-dimensioned language.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Alan Larson", is written over the printed name.

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